

Appl. No.: 09/751,788
Amdt. dated February 4, 2004
Reply to Office action of November 7, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office action mailed November 7, 2003, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-14. In this response, Applicants amend Claims 1, 9 and 14 and submit new Claims 15 and 16. Reconsideration of the claims as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 6, 9 and 14 over Chen (U.S. Patent No. 5,701,478). With reference first to Claim 1, the Examiner alleges that Chen teaches a computer system substantially as claimed comprising (references to Chen's teachings in parentheses and brackets):

initialization memory (ROM 41) containing initialization code [col. 4, lines 20-25];

a processor coupled to said initialization memory for executing said initialization code [col. 4, lines 20-25]; and

a static random access memory (SRAM 112) coupled to said processor for use in executing said initialization code [col. 4, lines 26-28].

Applicants submit that the Examiner's reading of Chen is not correct and that Chen does not teach or suggest the claimed combination. Chen teaches a combination of a TV game machine and a computer control main unit – two distinct processing systems. The computer control main unit, not the game machine, has one or more peripheral devices connected thereto (e.g., a joystick). By connecting the two different processing units, the TV game machine can operate the computer control unit's peripheral units. See e.g., Chen at col. 4, lines 37-41. Normally the only peripheral connected to the game machine is a joystick. See Chen at col. 1, lines 32-37. To operate the computer peripherals, however, the game machine needs to download the computer's BIOS program in to the game machine's memory and execute the computer's BIOS on the game machine's processor. However, the memory addresses allocated to the game card and the BIOS program conflict. Chen solves this problem by translating the BIOS code address space into a game machine memory address space which is normally not used in the game machine.

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By the present amendment, Claim 1 has been amended to make it clear that the claimed SRAM is used by the processor for storing variables used to execute the initialization software. In Chen, as part of the process of downloading or transferring the BIOS from the computer control main unit to the game machine, Chen teaches first loading the BIOS into the SRAM 112 in the game machine and then shifting the BIOS to the unused game machine address space shown in Fig. 1 of Chen, which is not the SRAM space. This arrangement allows the game machine to use the BIOS to control the main computer peripherals, see Chen at col. 4, lines 37-41. The game machine processor then executes the BIOS from the normally unused address space and is able to operate the game module and the computer system peripherals at the same time. Chen does not teach or suggest using the SRAM 112 for storing variables used by a processor while executing initialization code. In fact, the BIOS copied to Chen's game machine appears to be used only for controlling the peripheral units, not for performing initialization. See Chen at col. 4, lines 37-41. At least for this reason Claim 1 and all claims dependent from Claim 1 are allowable over Chen.

The Examiner rejected method Claim 6 on the same grounds as the apparatus Claim 1. Applicants submit that Chen does not teach or suggest the invention of Claim 6 for the reasons set out above.

Claim 9, as amended, includes DRAM, initialization code for initializing DRAM, and SRAM for storing variables used for initializing the DRAM. Chen provides no teaching or suggestion concerning initializing DRAM and no teaching or suggestion that variables are stored in SRAM to be used in initializing the DRAM. Claim 14 and newly submitted dependent claims 15 and 16 are patentable at least for the same reason as Claim 9.

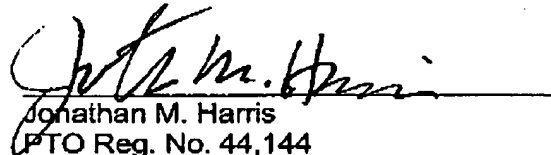
In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may

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be other distinctions between the claims and the prior art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any fees or time extensions are inadvertently omitted or if any fees have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Hewlett-Packard Company Deposit Account Number 08-2025 and enter any time extension(s) necessary to prevent this case from being abandoned.

Respectfully submitted,



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